Employees of Air India Under Suspension

842. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of employees of Air India belonging to officers and executives categories who are under suspension as on date;

(b) what are the names and details of such officers; and

(c) whether the procedure laid down is being followed in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Five employees of officer/executive category are under suspension. Since disciplinary proceedings against them are in progress, disclosure of their names at this stage might cause undue embarrassment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Privatisation of ITDC Hotels

843. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to privatise some of the ITDC hotels was under Government consideration;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) what are the details alongwith the hotels likely to be given and to which private organisations ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The Government have formulated a scheme whereby small groups of ITDC hotels would be formed for the purpose of developing them as joint ventures with leading foreign hotel chains. Under this scheme ITDC has invited bids for participation in the equity of the joint venture companies from the foreign international hotel chains.

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges in Ludhiana

844. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of exchanges which have been converted into electronic exchanges in Ludhiana Telecom District ;

(b) what is the strength of staff declared surplus due to automation, catagory-wise;

(c) whether Government are aware that efficiency in the said exchange has declined if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Ludhiana Industrial and residential Welfare Association has alleged corruption charges against officials, especially the S.D.O. (Phones), Civil Lines Ludhiana; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) 13 exchanges have been converted into electronic exchanges during 1992-93.

(b) Nil.

(c) Efficiency has not declined.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The case was investigated by Vigilance Officer and no substance was found in the allegations.